



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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#10/Response
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Sewman

APPLICANT(s): Carl Oppedahl

SERIAL NO.: 09/476,321 ART UNIT: 3621

FILING DATE: 1/3/00 EXAMINER: Sherr, Cristina O.

TITLE: IMPROVED AUTHENTICATION SYSTEM FOR MAIL
PIECES

ATTORNEY

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Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

GROUP 3600

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed November 7, 2002 (Paper No. 7) in regard to the above-identified patent application. Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully solicited in light of the following amendment and remarks.

REMARKS

1. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5 are not unpatentable over Gilham in view of Pintsov et al. ("Pintsov") under 35 U.S.C. §103.(a).

Claim 1 recites that the system defines a "first paper path" through the first bar-code reader and through a first collator. The system will collate a mail piece in a "second paper path" in the event of a successful reading of the bar-coded indicium by the "first bar-code reader". The system will collate mail pieces in a "third paper path" in the event of an unsuccessful